

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS :

- 1 1. A method for clearing an automobile contract, comprising:
 - 2 determining at least one parameter for a contract associated with financing provided by a
 - 3 first party to a second party regarding an automobile;
 - 4 auctioning said contract such that first party sells said contract; and
 - 5 notifying at least one party of a winning bid for said contract.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining at least one parameter for a
- 2 contract includes at least one of the following:
 - 3 establishing a default set of contract parameters; and
 - 4 receiving data indicative of said at least one parameter.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining at least one parameter for a
- 2 contract includes at least one of the following:
 - 3 receiving said at least one parameter from a dealer;
 - 4 receiving said at least one parameter from a potential lessee of said automobile;
 - 5 receiving said at least one parameter from an actual lessee of said automobile;
 - 6 receiving said at least one parameter from a potential purchaser of said
 - 7 automobile; and
 - 8 receiving said at least one parameter from an actual purchaser of said automobile.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining at least one parameter for a
- 2 contract includes at least one of the following:
 - 3 determining a condition of said automobile; and
 - 4 determining information regarding said automobile.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining at least one parameter for a
- 2 contract includes at least one of the following:
 - 3 determining an equity position in said automobile by a purchaser of said
 - 4 automobile.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining at least one parameter for a
2 contract includes at least one of the following:
3 determining a payment stream associated with said financing.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes:
2 providing a notification of said at least one parameter to a conductor of an auction
3 for said contract; and
4 receiving information regarding a winning bid for said contract from said
5 conductor of said auction for said contract.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes at least one
2 of the following:
3 applying at least one filter imposed by a lender; and
4 applying at least one filter imposed by a dealer.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes at least one
2 of the following:
3 receiving information regarding at least one filter imposed by a lender; and
4 receiving information regarding at least one filter imposed by a dealer.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes:
2 notifying a plurality of lenders regarding said contract and said at least one
3 parameter; and
4 receiving at least one bid from at least one of said plurality of lenders.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said auctioning said contract includes:
2 identifying a winning bid from said at least one bid received from said at least one
3 of said plurality of lenders.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes at least one
2 of the following:

3 notifying a dealer regarding said lender's winning an auction for said contract
4 notifying a lender regarding said lender's winning an auction for said contract;
5 notifying a lessee of said automobile regarding a lender for said contract; and
6 notifying a purchaser of said automobile regarding a lender for said contract.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes receiving
2 at least one bid for said contract.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said notifying at least one party of a winning bid
2 for said contract includes at least one of the following:

3 notifying a dealer selling said automobile regarding a lender for said contract;
4 notifying a lender regarding said lender's winning an auction for said contract;
5 and
6 notifying a purchaser of said automobile regarding a lender for said contract.

1 15. The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the following:
2 receiving data indicative of a dealer filter; and
3 receiving data indicative of a lender filter.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of the following:
2 sending data indicative of a dealer filter; and
3 sending data indicative of a lender filter.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein said auctioning said contract includes providing
2 information to a conductor of an auction for said contract.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein said information includes said at least one
2 parameter.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining at least one parameter for a
2 contract includes determining at least one parameter for a first contract for sale of a first
3 automobile and at least one parameter for a second contract for sale of a second
4 automobile.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said auctioning said contract includes
2 auctioning a pool that includes said first contract and said second contract.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein said notifying at least one party of a winning bid
2 for said contract includes notifying said at least one party of a winning bid for said pool.

1 22. The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one contract parameter includes
2 information regarding said automobile.

1 23. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining a minimum required amount for purchase of said contract.

1 24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
2 receiving a bid from a lender for said contract in excess of said minimum required
3 amount for said contract and crediting at least some of said excess for use by said lender
4 for purchase of a second contract for purchase of an automobile.

1 25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:
2 determining a minimum required amount for purchase of said second contract;
3 and
4 receiving a bid from said lender for said second contract that is less than said
5 minimum required amount for said second contract and applying at least some of said
6 excess to said bid from said lender for said second contract.

1 26. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 selling said contract in accordance with said winning bid.

1 27. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 receiving payment for said contract in accordance with said winning bid.

1 28. The method of claim 1, wherein said first party is selling said automobile to said
2 second party.

1 29. The method of claim 1, wherein said contract is executed between said first party
2 and said second party.

1 30. A method for clearing an automobile contract, comprising:

2 receiving data from a party, said data being indicative of at least one parameter
3 associated with an automobile contract;

4 auctioning said automobile contract; and

5 notifying said party of a winning bid for said automobile contract.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein said party is a dealer.

1 32. The method of claim 30, wherein said automobile contract regards financing for
2 an automobile.

1 33. The method of claim 30, wherein said automobile contract involves a lease of an
2 automobile.

1 34. The method of claim 30, further comprising:

2 notifying a lender associated with said winning bid that said lender has won an
3 auction for said automobile contract.

1 35. The method of claim 30, further comprising:

2 notifying a plurality of lenders regarding an auction for said automobile contract.

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein said winning bid is received from one of said
2 plurality of lenders.

1 37. The method of claim 30, wherein said auctioning said automobile contract
2 includes at least one of the following:
3 applying a dealer filter; and
4 applying a lender filter.

1 38. The method of claim 30, wherein said receiving data from a party, said data being
2 indicative of at least one parameter for an automobile contract for an automobile includes
3 receiving said data from said party wherein said data is indicative of at least one
4 parameter for a first automobile contract for a first automobile and at least one parameter
5 for a second automobile contract associated with a second automobile.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein said auctioning said automobile contract
2 includes auctioning a pool that includes said first automobile contract and said second
3 automobile contract.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein said notifying said party of a winning bid for
2 said automobile contract includes notifying said party of a winning bid for said pool.

1 41. The method of claim 30, wherein said at least one contract parameter includes
2 information regarding an automobile associated with said automobile contract.

1 42. The method of claim 30, further comprising:
2 determining a minimum required amount for purchase of said automobile
3 contract; and
4 receiving a bid from a lender for said automobile contract in excess of said
5 minimum required amount for said automobile contract and crediting at least some of
6 said excess for use by said lender for purchase of a second automobile contract .

1 43. The method of claim 42, further comprising:
2 determining a minimum required amount for purchase of said second automobile
3 contract; and
4 receiving a bid from said lender for said second automobile contract that is less
5 than said minimum required amount for said second automobile contract and applying at
6 least some of said excess to said bid from said lender for said second automobile contract.

1 44. A method for clearing an automobile contract, comprising:
2 determining at least one parameter for at least one automobile contract;
3 applying at least one dealer filter;
4 providing a notification to at least one lender regarding an opportunity to bid on
5 said at least one automobile contract, wherein said notification includes data indicative of
6 said at least one parameter for said at least one automobile contract;
7 receiving a bid from said at least one lender regarding said at least one automobile
8 contract; and
9 determining a winning bid for said at least one automobile contract.

1 45. The method of claim 44, wherein said at least one parameter includes at least one
2 of the following:
3 information regarding quality of an automobile associated with said automobile
4 contract; and
5 information regarding a purchaser's equity position in an automobile associated
6 with said automobile contract.

1 46. The method of claim 44, further comprising:
2 determining a minimum required amount for purchase of said automobile
3 contract; and
4 determining an excess over said minimum required amount provided by said
5 winning bid and crediting a lender associated with said winning bid at least some of said
6 excess for use with a bid provided by said lender for a second automobile contract .

1 47. The method of claim 44, wherein said at least one parameter includes information
2 regarding an automobile associated with said automobile contract.

1 48. The method of claim 44, wherein said providing a notification to at least one
2 lender regarding an opportunity to bid on said at least one automobile contact includes
3 displaying information regarding said automobile contract on a Web site and allowing
4 said lender to access said information.

1 49. The method of claim 44, wherein said automobile contract provides financing for
2 an automobile.

1 50. The method of claim 44, wherein said automobile contract involves a lease of an
2 automobile.

1 51. A method for selling an automobile contract, comprising:
2 receiving at least one parameter for at least one automobile contract ;
3 applying at least one lender filter;
4 providing a notification to at least one lender regarding an opportunity to bid on
5 said at least one automobile contract, wherein said notification includes data indicative of
6 said at least one parameter;
7 receiving a bid from said at least one lender regarding said at least one automobile
8 contract;
9 determining a winning bid for said at least one automobile contract; and
10 notifying at least one party regarding said winning bid.

1 52. The method of claim 51, wherein said at least one parameter includes at least one
2 of the following:
3 information regarding quality of an automobile associated with said automobile
4 contract; and
5 information regarding a purchaser's equity position in an automobile associated
6 with said automobile contract.

1 53. The method of claim 51, further comprising:
2 determining a minimum required amount for purchase of said automobile
3 contract; and
4 determining an excess over said minimum required amount provided by said
5 winning bid and crediting a lender associated with said winning bid at least some of said
6 excess for use with a bid provided by said lender for a second automobile contract .

1 54. The method of claim 51, wherein said at least one parameter includes information
2 regarding an automobile associated with said automobile contract.

1 55. The method of claim 51, wherein said providing a notification to at least one
2 lender regarding an opportunity to bid on said at least one automobile contact includes
3 displaying information regarding said contract on a Web site and allowing said lender to
4 access said information.

1 56. A system for facilitating clearance of automobile contracts, comprising:
2 a memory;
3 a communication port; and
4 a processor connected to said memory and said communication port, said
5 processor being operative to:
6 determine at least one parameter for a contract associated with an
7 automobile contract;
8 auction said automobile contract; and
9 notify at least one party of a winning bid for said automobile contract.

1 57. The system of claim 56, wherein said processor is further operative to:
2 determine a minimum required amount for purchase of said automobile
3 contract; and
4 determine an excess over said minimum required amount provided by said
5 winning bid and crediting a lender associated with said winning bid at least some

6 of said excess for use with a bid provided by said lender for a second automobile
7 contract .

1 58. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for facilitating
2 clearance of automobile contracts, comprising:

3 first instructions for identifying at least one parameter for an automobile contract ;
4 second instructions for placing said automobile contract for auction; and
5 third instructions for providing a notification to at least one party of a
6 winning bid for said automobile contract.

1 59. The computer program product of claim 58, further comprising:
2 fourth instructions for filtering lenders that can bid on said automobile contract.

1 60. The computer program product of claim 58, further comprising:
2 fourth instructions for identifying a minimum required amount for purchase of
3 said automobile contract; and
4 fifth instructions for identifying an excess over said minimum required amount
5 provided by said winning bid and crediting a lender associated with said winning bid at
6 least some of said excess for use with a bid provided by said lender for a second
7 automobile contract .